The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news comments and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Green Calls for Force If Necessary To Implement Partition of Palestine

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green demanded that the United Nations carry out its decision for the partition of Palestine "even though it may be necessary to resort to force to do so."

In a letter to President Truman, Mr. Green also urged that the embargo on the shipment of arms to the Middle East be lifted so that the Jews in Palestine who are fighting to uphold the UN decision may defend themselves.

"The exigencies of the situation call for prompt action," Mr. Green said in his letter to President Truman. "Delay which would follow postponement of action would encourage warfare in Palestine and result in further loss of life."

Mr. Green insisted that the challenge to the UN by the Arab States must be met effectively and immediately. Excerpts from his letter to President Truman follow:

"The 66th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor unanimously endorsed the decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine and expressed commendation of the government of the United States for its attitude toward this important question.

"Since the acceptance and approval of the report of the United Nations Committee in favor of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine, the Arab States have challenged the United Nations to put the decision into effect. At this moment they are engaged in deadly warfare against the Jewish people in Palestine.

"This challenge made by the Arabs must be met by the United Nations. The United Nations cannot surrender to a dissenting Arab group or to the Arab nations. Our own government measured up to the high standard it has always established and maintained when it approved the committee's report to partition Palestine. We must now implement that decision.

"The United Nations, of which our government is a part, must support the policy and must take steps to carry that policy into effect even though it may be necessary to resort to force in order to do so. We confidently hope and trust that our government will stand uncompromising in support of such a policy."

AFL Names J. J. Murphy Director of Organization

Washington, D. C.—Appointment of John Joseph Murphy as National Director of Organization for the American Federation of Labor was announced by AFL President William Green. He succeeds Frank P. Fenton, recently elevated to the post of International Representative of the AFL.

Mr. Murphy, while only 45, brings a long background of experience to his new job. He served as business agent and Organizer and International Director of Organization since 1938 and carried on several special organization campaigns for the federation.

At the age of 14, Mr. Murphy took his first job and became a member of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employe of America in Worcester, Mass. He worked successively as a water boy, errand boy, register checker and spare dispatcher. Then, displaced by the introduction of one-man operated street cars, he became an apprentice bricklayer in 1924 with Worcester Local 6 of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Union. After serving his apprenticeship, he worked at the trade and was elected to union office, becoming president of the local union in 1932. In 1937 he was appointed an organizer on the AFL staff and next year was named New England Regional Director.

In 1946, Mr. Murphy was assigned to Japan for three months during which he served as special labor aide to Gen. MacArthur.

Married and the father of three children, Mr. Murphy plans to move his family to Washington as soon as he can find a home here.

Job Turnover At Low Ebb In December; Hiring Rate Dropped To Prewar Level

Washington, D. C.—Reflecting increased stability in employment, hiring and separation rates in manufacturing industries for December were at the lowest levels for that month since the years 1939 and 1940, according to figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS said the voluntary quit rate dropped to 23 for every 1,000 employes while the hiring rate skidded from 48 to 35 during the month. The layoff rate for all industries continued at a relatively low level.

Completion of the holiday season and a lack of new orders were responsible for a substantial decline in hires and increase in layoffs in the food manufacturing industry. At 23 per 1000 employes the layoff rate was among the highest for any industry. While basic iron and steel showed little change during the month, several of the fabricating industries found it necessary to lay off additional workers because of material shortages.

Seasonal factors exerted a marked influence on the nondurable goods industries as a whole. The hiring rate fell from 51 to 32 per thousand as layoffs rose from 8 to 10 for every 1000 employes. The increase in layoffs in meat packing plants was due to reduction in livestock receipts. Production also decreased in the beverage industries as holiday orders were completed. Several tobacco plants reported large layoffs because of seasonal shutdowns.

All of the textile and apparel industries reduced their hiring as they began the post-holiday slack season. The shoe industry, however, raised its accession rate slightly despite some gain in layoffs.

Truman Urges Women's Organizations To Assist In Battle Against Inflation

Washington, D. C.—Women's organizations have at hand a ready weapon which they have not yet used to its full capacity—the power of the consumer, President Truman said before the Women's Bureau three-day conference on "The American Woman—Her Changing Role as Worker, Homemaker, and Citizen."

The President pointed out that it has been said over and over again that women control 85% of the nation's wealth; they certainly channel its day-to-day spending for food, for clothing, for all the many of the things that make for better living.

"This is a weapon which you can use together to combat one of the enemies that now threaten us—the high cost of living," the President said.

He added that women have joined together in giving form and substance to the social, political and economic aspirations of our country. He said that there should be monuments to the successes women have made such as women's suffrage, social legislation, greater economic opportunities for women, the opening of higher education to women, and the successful battle for civil and political rights.

However, President Truman emphasized that there are many unfinished tasks like equal pay for equal work, and the ending of specific discriminations against women, such as limitations on the right to serve on federal juries.

Other speakers at the conference were Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellenbach, Under Secretary of Labor David A. Morse, Assistant Secretary of Labor John W. Gibson, Dean Mildred Thompson of Vassar College, Ordway Tead, Board of Higher Education, New York; Gladys Dickinson, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; and Freida S. Miller, Director of the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor.

CONGRESS BLAMED FOR LOWER LIVING STANDARD

Toledo, Ohio.—Phil Hannah, secretary-treasurer of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, blamed the present Congress for abolishing many laws that served to raise American living standards.

Mr. Hannah spoke here before a large gathering of delegates to the Third Conference of Federal Labor Unions of Northwestern Ohio. In his castigation of the Congress, he said:

"Congress has voted against the extension of the Social Security program; against unemployment relief; against a new housing program, even for veterans, and against improving minimum wage standards."

Ballots Defend Your Freedom

BE SURE TO VOTE THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR

Break in Commodity Prices Gave Consumer Little Relief

Washington, D. C.—The American housewife has received no great or lasting bonanza in the form of a drastically lowered cost of living, despite the drop in commodity prices and the flurry of cuts in retail prices on many food items.

Reporting on the effect of the slump in the nation's primary grain and related commodities markets, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released figures showing a drop of only 3 to 4 percent in retail prices of food in 12 large cities. About 1 percent of this decline is attributed to normal factors, the BLS said.

If there has been any temporary relief, it is more than likely to disappear and be replaced by more hardship if predictions of the experts are realized. The Department of Agriculture forecasts higher prices for meat may be expected as the meats discussed acreage begins to be felt within the next few weeks or months. On top of this, the recent boost in steel prices will undoubtedly result in higher retail prices for products fabricated from this basic material. All factors considered, unless a business recession looms over the horizon, the American consumer can look forward to continued high prices and must reconsider himself lucky if a still higher cost of living does not materialize.

The BLS report showed that the large decreases for pork, lard, bacon and eggs were partially offset by increases in fruits and vegetables. Furthermore, the price declines reported seem to be limited to the food items affected by the drop in prices in the nation's big commodity markets and are not general in scope, the BLS declared. Retail prices for other than food products were at the highest peak in January, the report declared, and latest information from manufacturers indicates no widespread declines and show some advances. No detailed reports on prices for consumer goods and services in February are available as yet, the bureau said.

Commenting upon the telegraphic survey made by the bureau, Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said:

"There has not yet been time for a clear trend of retail prices as a whole to emerge. Even in foods, which have declined on the average, the important declines have centered in a few foodstuffs while others have been only slightly affected and some have been increased. Price cuts have shown up widely in different stores. Many grocers have consistently cut prices on selected items before they themselves have received the benefit of lower wholesale costs. Whether these cuts are maintained or extended depends largely on the extent to which the drop in primary market prices is reflected in lower wholesale costs of foods in local markets.

"Outside of the agricultural commodity markets, there has been no appreciable change in prices of commodities traded on organized exchanges. In fact, latest reports from manufacturers indicate a continued rise into February in the prices of such commodities as coal and petroleum, lumber and cement, woolen goods and steel products."

Advertising Executive Hits NAM Plan To Sell 'Free Enterprise' to Americans

Washington, D. C.—The big propaganda campaign of the National Association of Manufacturers to sell "Free Enterprise" to the American public through the media of newspaper and other advertising has met formidable opposition.

Marshall Adams, advertising manager of the Mullins Manufacturing Company and a director of the Association of National Advertisers, warned the campaign may "turn out to be the greatest blunder that has ever been committed in the name of advertising."

The undertaking, he said, both down to its effects on the morale of the private enterprise system, and to propagandize against changes to improve it and correct its shortcomings.

"It seems to me to be the better strategy to drive the shortsighted and reactionary elements in Free Enterprise out in the open, rather than provide a tent they can hide under," Adams declared.

He recalled that reactionaries started the same kind of campaign to scare the country when the "New Deal" came to power. "But they were unable to stop the inevitable social and economic changes that had been long overdue. They simply right under their noses," he said.

Then, as now, Adams asserted, the "out-of-date diehards", shouted that "the American way of life was being destroyed." He said the present propaganda "silly" because "the American way of life is not static and never will be; it has undergone constant change for over a hundred years and will continue to undergo changes for the next hundred."

Adams declared that the average American — "Joe Doakes" — doesn't need to be sold on "the American way of life."

"He likes it and wants to keep on living it—and the greatest hope is that 'free enterprise' will make it possible for him to keep on living it," Adams said.

What "Joe Doakes" wants, among other things, is work, social security, and decent living conditions and so long as "free enterprise" provides them, he'll be for the system, Adams pointed out.

The proposed advertising campaign, Adams insisted, is bound to fail because it "tries to persuade 'Joe Doakes' to "forget the real or existing faults of the system by telling him how it works."

If "free enterprise is in any danger," he said, "it's because of the defects in the system, not the existence of depressions." Advertisers would do better, Adams contended, to propose a plan to "prevent another depression" and "buckle down to work to overcome the defects of the system."

He declared that a similar campaign in the New Deal period flopped because it was based on the "false belief" that "what is good for business is good for you." That attitude, he stressed, "is the source of the present difficulties of the 'free enterprise' system."

The slogan should be reversed, he said, to read: "What is good for you is good for business."

"The same words, but what a whole of a difference a few shifts make!" he said. "It's not 'sell' but 'serve' free enterprise,' as a whole, recognizes what many leaders ignore—that its ability to pull welfare is dependent on the welfare of its customers as well as stockholders—it will be in danger.

If the advertisers, he added, "really want to sell something to somebody, why don't they try their hand at selling the short-sighted elements of 'free enterprise' the idea that what's for Joe Doakes is good for free enterprise?"

GUARANTEED WAGE PACT WON BY AFL UPHOLSTERERS

Allentown, Pa.—The first guaranteed annual wage agreement in the history of the upholstered furniture industry was successfully negotiated here by the AFL's Upholsterers' International Union.

The agreement, the only one of its kind in the area, provides for 44 hours work per week for 50 weeks in the year, one week's vacation with pay, and a week's pay as a Christmas bonus. Wage rates are to be computed on the basis of an 8-hour day rather than a week, with time and one-half for overtime.

Other gains include 7 paid holidays, contributions by the employer to the UIU health and death benefit insurance plan, the union shop, checkoff of dues, and the use of a union label on all products.

Ray Tether, president of the union's Local 162, was instrumental in obtaining the contract with the Hummel Furniture Company.

AFL TRADES COUNCIL TO AID HOSPITAL DRIVE

New York City.—The AFL's Central Trades and Labor Council here unanimously endorsed the current New York University-Bellevue Medical Center Fund, when it passed a resolution to support the $15,575,000 appeal.

Endorsement came after Dean Currier McEwan of the New York University College of Medicine, and Dr. Howard A. Rusk, director of the Institute of Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine of the new Center, told representatives of the allied locals that labor has an equal responsibility with management for the future health of the individual worker.

Dean McEwen said that the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center would be a "people's medical center," being planned specifically for the purpose of making the best benefits of modern medicine to wage earners and to middle income groups.

ITU RESUMES TALKS WITH JOB SHOP OWNERS

Chicago.—Negotiations resumed between the AFL's International Typographical Union and the Employing Printers Association, employer bargaining group for 400 Chicago-area commercial printing plants.

Woodruff Randolph, ITU president, intervened in the proceedings in an effort to reach a settlement between the employers and the union's Local 16. Talks began on a new contract broke down over the question of the union's "seven-and-five" rule. The old contract with the employers expired December 31.

Should Mr. Randolph be unsuccessful in his attempts to resolve the dispute, he is expected to authorize Local 16 to conduct a strike vote among its members and to call a strike if the membership approves such a step.

The present strike of Local 16 against publishers of Chicago's daily newspapers was called when the publishers, unlike many others in numerous cities, refused to abide by the union policy concerning contracts.

Green Urges Liberals to Seize Initiative in Fighting Reaction

Green Says Labor Now More Determined Than Ever to Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green declared that labor, after six months experience under the Taft-Hartley law, is "more than ever determined to use all its powers and resources to bring about the repeal of that abominable legislation."

Mr. Green, in a statement issued on the occasion of the law's six-month anniversary, asserted that labor's antagonism to the law has been intensified by recent developments in the field of labor-management relations which bear out "every charge made against this oppressive law."

The statement issued by the AFL leader follows:

"The Taft-Hartley Act is now six months old and this is an appropriate time to take stock of its effects.

"The record to date bears out every charge made against this oppressive law by organized labor while it was being considered by Congress. "Labor's opposition to the Act has been intensified by the following developments:

"1. The National Labor Relations Board, a government agency created to protect the rights of labor, has been perverted by the Taft-Hartley Act into a prosecutor of labor unions. After six months experience under the Taft-Hartley law, is "more than ever determined to use all its powers and resources to bring about the repeal of that abominable legislation."

"2. Long-standing, harmonious labor-management relationships, such as those between the International Typographical Union and newspaper publishers, have been disrupted by the Taft-Harley Act and similar destructive threats to engulf the national industry when present contracts expire.

"3. Organizing activities have fallen off 25 percent in results in the nation and 65 percent in the South, due to the aid and comfort which the law gives union-hating employers.

"4. The indictment which this memorialized Congress will wish to add that organized labor is completely aware that it cannot function and endure under the Taft-Hartley Act and is determined to exert all its powers and resources to bring about the repeal of that abominable legislation."

Welcomes ADA Help In Political Activities; Hits 'T-H' Law

Philadelphia.—AFL President William Green declared the time has come for progressive liberals to take the initiative in "our struggle against reaction."

In a ringing speech before the convention of Americans for Democratic Action, Mr. Green denounced the record of the postwar Congress as "one of failure" in labor legislation, minimum wages, health, housing, social security, and all other fields in which labor and progressive liberals have a vital interest.

The AFL leader, who is national chairman of Labor's League for Political Education, welcomed the ADA "to fight together against reaction, with confidence and without compromise."

Mr. Green repudiated the idea that trade unions should attempt to dictate to their members how to exercise their franchise at the polls. Upholding the belief that a worker "should exercise his responsibility as a citizen through political organization of his own free and independent choice," he declared:

"Yet, it is my opinion that a campaign of political education and political appeal, calling upon workers to support progressive ideas and progressive candidates, and to lend support to a concerted drive for the election of a progressive Congress and the enactment of progressive policies, will meet with an overwhelming and enthusiastic response from the ranks of laboring men and women of the nation.

"These are the principles on which the American Federation of Labor unions have built the Labor's League for Political Education."

Condemning the third-party threat as an "adventure that might almost say red-starred, political venture," Mr. Green said it makes the need for united action of freedom-loving, true progressives all the more urgent in the battle against reactionary forces. He said:

"The future of America has been threatened and the democratic process has been challenged by the predatory and vested interests stifling the free dissemination of news and ideas and causing powerful over the 80th Congress. Abject servility with which this Congress responded to the pressure of powerful combinations and special interest lobbies, by deliberately and methodically rejecting every proposal to improve human welfare, every plan to serve the plain people, and every incentive to the progressives devoted to democracy to join hands and unite closely together.

"Reactionary forces in Congress and in state legislatures have already demonstrated in the first campaign against organized labor. The Taft-Hartley Act, which might have passed under array of state anti-labor enactments has already made deep and devastating inroads in the rights of workers to self organization and collective bargaining. Every month in the 80th Congress set the clock back by more than two generations, of progress won by labor's struggle and sacrifice.

"Every single step contained in the statute leads to only one effect: Elimination or weakening of the rights of labor established by the Wagner Act, the Norris-LaGuardia Act and other enactments.

"Every single step of the Taft-Hartley law was prompted by but a single thought: How to make the worker more subservient to the employer and more dependent upon the employer's whims.

"What the Taft-Hartley Act does is to remove the bulwark of trade union protection against destructive wage cutting and reduced standards, which will react not upon workers when competition resumes full sway. The Taft-Hartley Act is a vicious law, because it throws wide open the gates to economic oppression which only the collective action of workers banded in unions can overcome."

Fenton, Brown to Attend ERP Parley

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced that he has directed Frank Fenton and Irving Brown to represent the American Federation of Labor at the international trade union conference in support of the Marshall Plan on March 9 in London.

Mr. Fenton, the AFL's International Representative, is enroute for Europe to attend a meeting of the governing body of the International Labor Organization. Mr. Brown, the AFL's European Representative, is in Brussels.

Mr. Green called H. Vincent Tewson, General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, that Mr. Fenton and Mr. Brown would attend the London conference. He said that since the meeting was called on such short notice it would be impossible for himself and other top AFL leaders to make the trip, as was previously announced.

NLRB Playing Submarine; Submerged By Case Load

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board had another record-breaking month of activity which served to increase the backlog of cases awaiting action at various procedural levels to 7,237 as of the end of January, a 25 percent increase over the preceding month.

This was revealed in the board's monthly statistical summary covering operations for January which showed at 45 percent increase in the number of cases filed with the NLRB. A total of 3,008 cases were filed during the month.

The number of cases awaiting action is nearly double the number of cases pending as of August 22, 1947, when the Taft-Hartley law took effect. This bears out the prediction of union leaders, made at the time, that the complex administrative requirements of the new law would create a "breakdown" in the NLRB machinery and hopelessly emanate unions in endless delays in the processing of cases.

Elections to authorize unions to demand the union shop continued as the major phase of the board's activity. Of the 3,008 petitions filed with the board, 69 percent, or 2685 were for elections of various types. Of this total, 2,119 petitions asked for union shop elections.

An all-time high of 1191 elections were conducted by the board during January, more than half the number of elections ever conducted by the NLRB during the same period. Of the elections held, the union shop authorization polls were the most numerous by far.

Results of the 993 union shop elections held since August 22 indicate that an overwhelming number of workers favor the union shop. The union security measure was voted for by a majority of employes in 81 percent, or 979 of the 993 elections. A total of 102,337 votes, or 93 percent of the valid ballots cast, favored the request of unions to negotiate a union shop with their employers.

Affiliates of the American Federation of Labor were victorious in 633 of the 993 polls conducted. Independent unions were next with 181 victories, while the CIO trailed with only 165 triumphs.

The 102,337 votes reported cast in favor of the union shop is only a part of the total votes cast favored some union as collective bargaining agent. AFL unions participated in 111 such elections and emerged victorious in 76 instances. The CIO won out in but 22 of the 45 contests in which it was involved.

Nonagricultural Employment Declines; Clague Sees Continued Labor Demand

Washington, D. C.— Nonagricultural employment dropped 1,100,000 in January to a total of 42,950,000, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Chief reasons for the decline, according to the BLS, were the end of temporary Christmas workers, plant closings for inventory purposes, and adverse weather conditions.

Despite the seasonal decline, which was about the same as occurred in 1947 the preceding year, the bureau report showed the number of employes in January 1948 was 1,150,000 more than above the level for January 1947.

Employment in the manufacturing industries decreased by over 100,000 from the year-end total. Most of this drop was accounted for by such seasonal industries as logging, lumbering, and food processing, the BLS said.

Only 3 industry groups in the durable goods field showed increased employment during the month. The automobile industry added 11,000 men and small gains were reported by the ordnance and instruments fields. Radio manufacturing showed reduced employment as a result of contract completion and fewer new orders.

Commenting upon the situation, Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said:

"The underlying demand for labor continues strong and recent fluctuations in commodity prices have had no visible effects upon the employment situation so far.

"A price decline, if sustained and extended on a broad front, could have important effects on the employment situation by causing hesitancy on the part of the buying public and delays in purchases by businessmen in anticipation of further price drops. This would be particularly noticeable in industries of buying for inventory and plans for capital expansion. So far the declines have been concentrated in agricultural commodities, and there has been no evidence of any lessening in the firm effective demand for goods and services. Some sort of corrective reaction may be seen during the next months in connection with purchases for the Easter holidays which come early this year.

"The reduction in employment and the moderate rise in unemployment during January and early February followed the normal mid-winter pattern, accentuated somewhat by the unusually severe weather prevailing throughout the country. Industrial activity continued at very high levels and there were over a million more workers jobs this January than in the same month a year ago."

Note to Editors

In view of the holiday and circumstances beyond the control of the editor, the regular cartoon carried in the Tuesday edition of the News Service is omitted this week.

The next cartoon in the series will appear in the edition of March 2, at which time mats will be mailed to you.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accents and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

ITU Suffers Blow In Injunction Fight; Motion to Dismiss Suit Denied By Court

Indianapolis.—The AFL's International Typographical Union lost the first round in its fight against the request of Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, for a sweeping nation-wide injunction restraining the union from engaging in alleged unfair labor practices.

Federal Judge Luther M. Swygert denied the union's motion to dismiss the suit and thereby upheld the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley law's injunctive powers.

The NLRB sought the injunction as a temporary measure until it takes action to determine whether the printers are actually breaking the law by engaging in certain practices dubbed by the American Newspaper Publishers as unfair. Board attorneys expect that an injunction would halt the 14 strikes now going on in newspaper plants over the country.

Judge Swygert based his 10-2 decision that (1) Section 10-J of the Taft-Hartley Act gives the government to seek injunctive relief is constitutional, and (2) that the NLRB has authority to delegate to the general counsel the power to institute injunction suits.

Holding that Section 10-J did not violate "the due process principle, Judge Swygert said maintenance of the union's contention "would cast a presumption of a lack of due process upon every equitable proceeding which undertakes to grant such relief."

"In sum, the proceeding would be equitable and proper as indicated by the circumstances of the particular case, so that public rights, as well as private rights, are protected during the pendency of the proceedings before the board," Judge Swygert said.

Where Do You Stand?

How do you regard the Taft-Hartley Act?
Are you for it or against it?

Recently, Senator Robert A. Taft and other supporters of this legislation have been making speeches trying to make the public believe that the Taft-Hartley Act is opposed only by labor leaders and that the rank and file of labor union members are really in favor of it.

We think the public ought to know the truth.

That is why we are conducting this nation-wide poll.

This is an entirely secret ballot. We want you to express your honest opinion with perfect freedom. All you have to do is to place a check in the box beside either of the two questions below and mail the clipping to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

I am for the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

I am against the Taft-Hartley Act ☐

Please mark your ballot above and mail to Poll Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Failure to Enact ERP to Mean More 'Red' Gains, Says Green

Warning Is Sounded In Joint Labor-Industry Appeal for Aid Plan

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green warned that unless the Marshall Plan is enacted western Europe will face the same set of conditions which has befallen Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Green's warning was made in a nation-wide broadcast over the Mutual network devoted to a unique labor-management appeal for adoption of the European Recovery Program.

Joining in the appeal with Mr. Green was Philip D. Reed, chairman of the board of directors of the General Electric Company.

Citing the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia, Mr. Green repeated his previous warnings on the menace inherent in Russia's expansionist policy and said the ERP is a program of "helpfulness and peace" designed to combat the Soviet influence and to establish western Europe as an ally of democracy in the cold war.

"I need not recite here the long and ominous record of Communist aggression and broken faith built up by Soviet Russia since the close of the last world war," Mr. Green declared.

"What is happening in Czechoslovakia will be the same thing that has happened during the past few years in Poland, in Rumania, in Bulgaria and in other nations within the Soviet sphere. Unless we adopt the Marshall Plan and make it work, the same fate is bound to overtake the nations of western Europe during the coming years.

"Russia has two powerful allies in western Europe. One is aggressive Communist domain first over all of Europe and then throughout the world. Those allies are fear and desperation.

"On the other hand, we have even more powerful allies on our side. These are the love of peace and freedom shared by all the people of Europe.

"If we can save the democratic nations of Europe from hunger and despair through the Marshall Plan and give them the means through which they can become self-supporting and independent, the cause of world peace will have been immeasurably strengthened.

"For these reasons, the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention last October sponsored the idea of an international trade union conference in Europe to rally the working people and the democratic nations in support of the Marshall Plan. Such a conference has now been called by the British Trades Union Congress at which the American Federation of Labor will have two representatives in addition to the six assigned in London.

"It should be remembered that Soviet Russia has concentrated her efforts on infiltrating and undermining the labor movements of Europe as a preparatory step toward revolution. The London conference will, in my opinion, prove a healthy step in a world-wide drive to eliminate Russian fifth-columns in labor unions."

Mr. Reed said the plan undoubtedly will lead to inflationary reports, but "we must face the fact that our security depends upon the sole or major cause of our inflation." He called for anti-inflation measures, "the first and foremost being self-restraint on the part of every one of us." The job the people of Europe must be in-spired to do is "beyond the dollars" and "our intentions are not impartial-ists."

AFL Will Participate In Celebrating The 35th Anniversary of Labor Dept.

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor will participate in meetings throughout the nation in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the United States Department of Labor.

Highlighting the AFL's part in the observance, President William Green will address a dinner meeting in New York on March 4. Other speakers include Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach and prominent leaders of industry.

President William Howard Taft signed the act which created the department of Labor as a separate cabinet post on March 4, 1913. Commenting upon the passage of the law, the AFL News Service made the following comment:

"The government of the United States now has a department devoted exclusively to the interests of labor. Last summer (1912) the House passed the Sulzer bill; in the closing days of the 62d Congress the Senate concurred and the President signed it. Its enactment was felt that the bill would not be reached by the Senate, but Senate Borah of Idaho, chairman of the Education and Labor Committee of the Senate, succeeded in securing consideration of the measure a few days before adjournment. This is a distinct victory for the American Federation of Labor, as it has been working for this department to be created."

The object of the act creating the department is found stated in the act itself, which says:

"The purpose of the Department of Labor shall be to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment."

Secretary Schwellenbach, commenting upon the anniversary in the February issue of "Labor Information Bulletin," declared:

"This department is dedicated to the welfare and rights of the individual. But these must be translated into sound social legislation such as the Labor Department has supported and supported in the past. Much progress has been made. Much remains to be done."

AFL's Building Service Employes Win Important Union Shop Agreement

New York City.—Over 2,000 building service employes represented by Local 32-B of the AFL's Building Service Employes Union won an important victory here with the negotiation of a new union shop contract with a building owners association.

David Sullivan, president of the union, expressed satisfaction with the 3-year contract which provides a general wage increase of $5 a week and guarantees against work interruptions.

The agreement directly affects 2,000 elevator starters and operators, porters and janitors in 200 office buildings, most of them in the garment, fur, and millinery districts. Nearly 4,500 other workers are expected to receive identical benefits under terms of contracts to be negotiated with building owners in the near future.

The new midtown contract will raise the minimum wage for employes in Class A buildings to $47.33 for a 40-hour week, in Class B buildings to $45.40 and in Class C buildings to $43.75. The wage increases will be retroactive to Feb. 4, when the old contract expired.

Watchmen, who have been working 56 hours a week, will go on a 48-hour schedule under the new pact. They also will receive a $5 a week wage increase.

Adam Reisman, counsel for Local 32-B, said the agreement on contract terms had been facilitated by the willingness of the employers to work out practical methods for "removing the impact" of the Taft-Hartley law.

"Both sides said that employers also had agreed that the union would police its own ranks automatically if the Taft-Hartley law were amended to make the closed shop legal again. The union's right to a union shop in the building was also reestablished in a National Labor Relations Board election.

Mr. Sullivan praised the owners for their cooperative attitude in the wage negotiations, and Melvin Brown, executive vice president of the association responded with a similar expression of appreciation of the union.

AFL Supports $800 Minimum Salary Increase For All Federal Employes

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged Congress to grant an immediate $800 minimum salary increase to federal employes to compensate for the increase in living costs.

In testimony before a House committee considering various proposals for the adjustment of federal salaries, Mr. Green declared the pay boost is necessary to maintain America's standards and to bring the buying power of federal employes up to present market conditions.

In addition to the $800 minimum increase, the AFL contends that flat pay or increases should be granted "where appropriate" to more responsible work.

Under the AFL proposal workers paid an hourly and daily basis whose wages are not set by wage boards would receive an increase of 40 cents an hour.

In offering his recommendations, Mr. Green made it clear that the AFL would oppose any legislation enacted "which may try to absorb increases granted by arbitrary or punitive reduction in forces, extension of hours of work, or downgrading or reclassifying of jobs, thereby defeating the increase."

Mr. Green told the false economy brought about by a low scale of pay. He said:

"Low paid work is usually not economical. Morale is undermined as government employes feel when compared by Congress and the nation.

"The way to get more efficient, economical and high quality work is compensation that will enable employes to live in accord with American standards and save for future needs. The United States government should lead all employers in establishing sound principles of human relations in government work with steadily rising standards of pay and working conditions.

"The work of the federal government has expanded in volume and responsibility steadily over the past three decades. Personnel policies and pay standards have not kept pace. Congress, of course, properly does not wish to waste money, but as spokesman for some 7 million employes in many unions of government employes, let me stress the fact that low-paid work is often more expensive than higher paid work.

"There can be no question but that the interests and welfare of the whole people require that the quality of services performed by government employes. Government is the only business must compete with other business enterprises and pay for the contract best workers must offer the best conditions of work and pay."

Green Endorses Cancer Fund Campaign; Labor Urged to Join In Fight on Disease

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor urged its affiliated unions to redouble their efforts in cooperating with the American Cancer Society in a drive to enlist union members conscious of the need for a strong and continuous fight against the disease.

AFL President William Green, in an endorsement of the society's fundraising drive, said:

"I call upon labor everywhere to unite with other groups of people and join with them in the fund-raising campaign which will be launched for the purpose of carrying on an uncompromising fight against the dread disease of cancer."

Meanwhile, with the cooperation of labor unions, the American Cancer Society has launched a nation-wide educational project for the purpose of: (1) supporting the fight against cancer, and (2) reaching the union membership with facts, which, when put them guard against the disease which each year takes the lives of 16,000 members of organized labor.

Assisting in this drive, unions have distributed thousands of pamphlets describing the "danger signs" of cancer and emphasizing the importance of periodic medical examinations.

In addition to Mr. Green, other prominent labor leaders urged support for the society's work which, according to its spokesmen, "includes the financing of cancer detection centers and clinics throughout the nation."

Ralph T. Helstein, president of the Meat Trades Department of the AFL, wrote that "every encouragement and support should be given to the American Cancer Society in the interest of: (1) supporting the fight to protect the individual from what in many instances is a curable and incurable disease."

"It is imperative that everyone help to make this campaign a success," wrote Harry Bates, AFL president, and Herbert Rivers, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department.

The Department of Labor assumed the function last March when the Selective Service System expired.

In an analysis of claims filed with the field offices of the Bureau Mr. Salyers said that about 40 percent of the new cases reported alleged that workers had failed to return to their grains in the jobs held prior to entering service with the armed forces. In most of the remaining cases the complaints charged that there was denied proper seniority, pay, vacation rights, or other legal benefits.

Labor Dept. Gets 5,000 Job Claims

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 5,000 claims involving reemployment, promotion, and seniority rights of veterans were filed with the offices of the Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights, U. S. Department of Labor, between August 1947 and February 1948, Robert K. Salyers, BVRR Director, announced.

In the six months period 2,908 claims were settled through field offices while 1,930 were pending at end of February.

Mr. Salyers gave much of the credit for prompt settlement of claims to volunteer veteran reemployment rights committeemen in every section of the country.

"These committeemen," he said, "have been of invaluable aid in helping claim at plant and community level. They serve without pay and have done much to make the work of the Bureau of Veterans Reemployment Rights successful. In all cases they seek an amicable disposition of the claims and they are succeeding in a vast majority of cases."

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USES Reports Rise In Job Applications

Washington, D. C.—The small seasonal increase in demand for labor in January was reflected in the number of new job applications filed during the month by workers seeking jobs through the public employment services, Robert C. Goodwin, director of the U. S. Employment Service, reported.

A total of 1,800,000 job applications totaled 642,760, the largest number in a single month since June and 20 percent more than in December. New applications filed by veterans alone totaled 124,200 in January, setting a 15-month high. Nearly one out of every 10 of these were held with veterans. Of the total number of applications received, 42,100 were with handicapped workers, including disabled veterans.

Counseling interviews provided for veterans in the local offices totaled 124,200 in January, setting a 15-month high. Nearly one out of every 10 of these were held with veterans. Of the total number of applications received, 42,100 were with handicapped workers, including disabled veterans.

AFL's Auto Workers Vote Inflation 'Most Critical Situation' Facing U. S.

Milwaukee, Wis.—A poll taken among members of the AFL's United Automobile Workers reflected the conviction that the high price problem is the "most critical situation facing the United States today."

Lester Washburn, president of the union, announced the results of the poll which was conducted by questionnaire among the union membership.

The union's executive board voting said that the runaway price situation was still unsolved by anti-strike provision. Strained relations with Russia and growing unemployment were the choice by 26 percent of the membership who participated in the poll. Only "crackdown on big business monopoly" came in as the most critical problem facing the United States now, and adequate preparation for a serious depression trailed in last.

To the question: What do you think should be labor's chief goal in 1948 the board reported that the Taft-Hartley Act" The UAW-AFL membership voted only a slightly higher percentage fait that the U. S. should give more power to the United Nations for its disposition.

UNION'S WELFARE PLAN SHOWS AMAZING GAIN

Camden, N. J.—In one year of operation the Welfare Fund of AFL-organized Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America.

Set up Feb. 1, 1947, to provide workers with hospitalization, medical, loss-of-time benefits and life insurance, the plan's effectiveness in protecting the workers and his family was underlined with hospitalization costs by accompanying sickness, accidents and death, brought quick recognition from members of the local unions affiliated with the joint council and operating in New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

During the year, union members received $3,275,764 in such claims, plus two death benefit payments of $1000 each.

Total and only cost of the generous and all-inclusive protection given by the Joint Council Health and Welfare Plan is only $1.35 a month. In most instances, payment of the premium is a matter of collective bargaining with the employer.

REP. HARTLEY WANTS MORE CURBS ON LABOR UNIONS

New York City.—Representative Fred A. Hartley is not satisfied with the stringent anti-labor provisions contained in the Taft-Hartley Act.

Speaking before an employer group here, he declared that "amendments to the existing labor legislation: (1) to include the unions with anti-trust laws under the antitrust and restraint of trade provisions of the Sherman and Clayton acts, and (2) to make interference with those who want to work unlawful.

Representative Hartley said inclusion of labor under the restraint of trade provisions should be applicable only "if national health and safety are endangered," and he considered such a law of great importance to cope with another possible nation-wide coal strike.

House Rejects Truman Reorganization Plan to Rebuild a Strong Labor Dept.

Washington, D. C.—The House refused to approve President Truman's reorganization plan which would place the United States Employment Service and the Bureau of Employment Security in the Labor Department on a permanent basis.

The action by the House does not kill the measure since another reorganization plans become effective within 60 days unless rejected by both houses of Congress. The Senate must act before March 19 on this particular plan.

The American Federation of Labor and other labor organizations supported the President's proposal for a transfer of the agencies as a move which would rebuild and greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Labor Department which, over a period of years, has been stripped of many of its functions.

The United States Employment Service is temporarily in the Labor Department as a result of a wartime transfer. The Bureau of Employment Security, which handles the unemployment insurance system, is part of the Federal Security Agency.

The President has asked authority to combine the two under a new $10,000-a-year Commissioner of Employment.

Labor Department officials expressed belief that the House will approve the plan. The House's action was unexpected, they said.

Representative Clare E. Hoffman of Massachusetts, the minority whip, replied that when Congress set up the commission, it specifically emphasized that the group was not to interfere with any presidential or congressional reorganization plans.